

NEWS SUMMARY 18 July 2018

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Trump says he accepts Russia meddled in election, but still muddies waters

U.S. President Donald Trump reversed his controversial comments denying Russian meddling in the 2016 election after a summit with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki Monday. Trump accepted U.S. intelligence agencies' conclusion that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

Trump, House Republicans discuss further tax cuts at White House

President Donald Trump and Republican U.S. lawmakers discussed another possible round of deficit-financed tax cuts, highlighting an initiative seen by some tax experts as an election-year effort with little chance of becoming law.

Fed's Powell: Years of strong jobs, low inflation still ahead

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the economy is on the cusp of "several years" where the job market remains strong and inflation stays around the Fed's 2% target.

Fed's George sees 'excellent' economy, wants more rate hikes

Kansas Federal Reserve President Esther George said the U.S. economy in excellent shape, monetary policy should be neutral influence. George said gradual further increases in our policy rate will be necessary to return policy to a neutral stance.

States sue U.S. to void state and local tax deduction cap

Four U.S. states sued the federal government to void the new \$10,000 cap on the federal deduction for state and local taxes, included as part of the President Donald Trump's 2017 tax overhaul.

Japan and EU sign 'biggest' trade deal as Donald Trump puts up barriers

The European Union and Japan have signed one of the world's biggest free trade deals which will increase trade and investment in the two markets as well as reducing prices for consumers.

Oil prices fall after surprise rise in U.S. inventories

Oil prices dropped amid a rise of more than 600,000 barrels in U.S. crude stockpiles last week, defying analyst expectations for a significant reduction.

Trade minister says government cannot accept pro-EU rebel plan on trade law

Junior trade minister George Hollingbery said the government cannot accept pro-EU rebel plan on trade bill. Lords amendment will take in elements of pro-EU rebel plan but remove parts relating to customs union.

Carney - no deal Brexit would prompt interest rate review

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said a no-deal Brexit would have "big" economic consequences and could prompt a review of interest rates. The Bank is widely expected to raise rates early next month.

Boeing announces new division devoted to flying taxis

Boeing revealed that it had teamed up with artificial intelligence company SparkCognition to build small, unmanned and airborne taxis. The initiative is called Boeing NeXt.

HKEX says it is working with mainland on inclusion of dual-class shares in stock connect

The Hong Kong stock exchange said it has agreed with China's mainland stock exchanges to work towards the inclusion of weighted voting right companies in the stock connect scheme that links mainland exchanges with the Asian financial hub.

UK companies' marketing budgets grow at second slowest rate in two years: survey

The IPA Bellwether report showed that 23% of marketing executives raised their budgets during the quarter. The resulting net rise of 6.5% was higher than an increase of 5 in the previous quarter.

China is investing 9 times more into Europe than into North America, report reveals

Chinese outbound foreign direct investment into North America has dropped by a whopping 92% in the last year from \$24 billion to \$2 billion. Chinese M&A into Europe was \$20 billion compared to \$2.5 billion in North America in the first six months of the year.

South Korea cuts economic growth outlook, wage hikes seen choking jobs recovery

Facing a feeble labor market recovery and global trade tensions, South Korea cut its economic growth forecast to 2.9% for this year, down from a 3% estimate in December.

Obama warns against China's model and rise of 'strongman politics', in speech hailing Mandela's legacy

Former President Barack Obama warned of "a politics of fear and resentment and retrenchment," calling for greater efforts to foster international cooperation as he delivered barbs at China and his successor in the White House.

Iran files suit against US sanctions at World Court

The International Court of Justice has confirmed Iran's filling of a lawsuit against the United States over its re-imposing sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

ECB shouldn't tie its hands too early on policy - Rehn

Finland's new central bank governor Olli Rehn said The European Central Bank should not tie its hands too early when it comes to future monetary policy decisions but look instead at how the economy pans out.

Mastercard has a new patent that could allow bitcoin transactions on credit cards

Mastercard won a patent to protect a method that would manage "fractional reserves of blockchain currency." Bitcoin bull Tom Lee says this is good news as it validates cryptocurrency as a form of transaction.

Canadian temporary tattoo start-up gets \$10 million in funding

Inkbox, a Toronto-based start-up, has secured \$10 million in funding from venture capitalists to expand its operations in the temporary tattoo business.

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